CLAIMS

1. An assay method for determining whether an agent is capable ofmodulating the interaction of CCR5 with gp120,

the method comprising:

incubating the agent with CCR5 and gp120 to form a first reaction mixture; and

determining whether said agent modulates the interaction of CCR5 with gp120;

wherein said gp120 is associated with CD4, and

wherein said interaction is a low affinity binding.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said method includes the step of adding a ligand to said first reaction mixture to form a second reaction mixture, wherein said ligand is capable of indicating whether said agent has modulated said interaction.

3. The method according to claim 2, wherein said ligand has a detectable label.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein said detectable label is a fluorescent atom or a fluorescent group.

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein said radioactive atom in Eu^{3+}.

6. The method according to claim 2, wherein said ligand comprises at least a first antibody.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein said first antibody is capable of binding to gp120, and wherein said binding is high affinity binding, preferably wherein said first antibody is associated with a detectable label.

8. The method according to claim 6, wherein said ligand further comprises at least a second antibody.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein said second antibody is capable of binding to said first antibody.

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein said second antibody is an anti-IgG antibody.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein said second antibody is associated with a detectable label.

12. An agent identified by the method of claim 1, wherein said agent is capable of modulating the interaction of CCR5 with gp120.

13. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the agent of claim 12, and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, diluents, adjuvants, or excipients.

14. A method of modulating the *in vivo* interaction of CCR5 with gp120 in a mammal in need thereof, the method comprising administering to said mammal the agent of claim 12.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said agent is administered to treat or prevent human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection.